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ABSTRACT

Included in this annotated bibliography are over 150 books, chapters in books, and journal articles dealing with Jewish women and Jewish feminism. Only English language sources have been cited, and the majority of titles focus on the experience of Jewish women in the United States. Most of the items included were published in the 1970's and 1980's. The bibliography is organized into eight parts: Background Sources; History; Jewish Religious Life and Tradition; Biography, Autobiography, Diaries, Letters, Oral History; Literature (fiction, poetry, and literary criticism); Contemporary Jewish Feminism and Lesbian Feminism (including works on anti-Semitism in the women's movement); Reference Sources; and Periodicals. The addresses of some of the publications are also included. (RM)

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JEWISH WOMEN'S STUDIES: SELECTED SOURCES

October 1984

Compiled by:

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JEWISH WOMEN'S STUDIES: SELECTED SOURCES

Included in this bibliography are books, chapters from books and articles which will introduce the reader to a selection of the available literature on Jewish women and Jewish feminism. Only English-language sources have been cited, and the majority of titles focus on the experience of Jewish women in the United States. The bibliography is in eight parts: Background Sources; History; Jewish Religious Life and Tradition; Biography, Autobiography, Diaries, Letters, Oral History; Literature (fiction, poetry and literary criticism); Contemporary Jewish Feminism and Lesbian Feminism (including works on anti-Semitism in the women's movement); Reference Sources; and Periodicals. Readers seeking a more comprehensive guide to this literature should turn to Aviva Cantor's exhaustive bibliography, cited in Reference below.

I gratefully acknowledge the assistance and critical comments of Rose Katz and Evelyn Torton Beck in the compilation of this bibliography.

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Zborowski, Mark, and Elizabeth Herzog. Life Is With People: The Culture of the Shtetl. Introduction by Margaret Mead. New York: Schocken Books, 1962.

History

Baum, Charlotte, Paula Hyman, and Sonya Michel. The Jewish Woman in America. New York: Dial Press, 1976.
History of Jewish women of European background in the U.S.

Brooten, Bernadette J. Women Leaders of the Ancient Synagogue: Inscriptional Evidence and Background Issues. Chico, CA: Scholars Press, 1982. (Brown Judaica studies, no.36)
Study of ten Greek and Latin inscriptions for evidence of women's role as leaders in a number of synagogues during the Roman and Byzantine periods. Revised doctoral dissertation (Harvard).

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Glanz, Rudolf. The Jewish Woman in America: Two Female Immigrant Generations 1820-1929. New York: Ktav Pub. House/National Council of Jewish Women, 1976. 2 vols.
Vol. 1: The Eastern European Jewish Woman. Vol. 2: The German Jewish Woman.

Henry, Sondra, and Emily Taitz. Written Out of History: Our Jewish Foremothers. 2nd ed. rev. Fresh Meadows, NY: Biblio Press, 1983.
Overview and portraits of outstanding Jewish women in history. First edition was published under the title: Written Out of History: A Hidden Legacy of Jewish Women Revealed Through Their Writings and Letters (Bloch, 1978).

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Details the three major campaigns of the JFB: the fight against "white slavery"; the struggle for equality in Jewish communal affairs; and the pursuit of career training.

Katz, Esther, and Joan Miriam Ringelheim, eds. Women Surviving the Holocaust: Proceedings of the Conference. New York: Institute for Research in History, 1983.
This conference drew more than 400 people, including survivors, children of survivors, scholars and the general public. The proceedings examine the role of women in the ghettos, in the resistance, in hiding, passing and escaping, and in the concentration camps of Nazi-occupied Europe. A report on the conference appeared in New Directions for Women, v.12, no.3, May/June 1983, pp.10-11, 19.

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Most chapters reprinted from other sources.

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Sochen, June. Consecrate Every Day: The Public Lives of Jewish American Women, 1880-1980. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1981. (SUNY series in modern Jewish history)

Swidler, Leonard J. Women in Judaism: The Status of Women in Formative Judaism. Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press, 1976.

Weinberg, Sydney Stahl. "The World of Our Mothers: Family, Work, and Education in the Lives of Jewish Immigrant Women." Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies 7, no.1 (1983): 71-79.

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A new ceremony for midlife Jewish women to parallel the Bat Mitzvah.

Greenberg, Blu. On Women & Judaism: A View from Tradition. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society of America, 1981.
An anthology of feminist essays calling for a change in the role of women within orthodox Judaism.

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Autobiography of a French singer-pianist who as an inmate at Auschwitz was permitted to live because of her work with the women's orchestra. Published in England under the title The Musicians of Auschwitz (M. Joseph, 1977).

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A Hungarian who fought the rise of fascism, during WWII Senesh joined a commando unit which worked to help Jews escape from the occupied territories. She was captured and executed in 1944 after parachuting into Yugoslavia. Includes Senesh's diary, letters and selected poems; two essays by her mother; and two by other contributors. See also Anthony Masters' The Summer That Bled: A Biography of Hannah Senesh (St. Martin's Press, 1972).

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Best known for her guidebooks to New York, Mexico and Italy, Simon writes here of her growing-up years as a Polish immigrant newly arrived in the Bronx.

Solomon, Charlotte. Charlotte: Life or Theater? An Autobiographical Play. New York: Viking Press; Maarssen, The Netherlands: G. Schwartz, 1981.
Includes hundreds of color reproductions of Solomon's original gouaches.

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Excerpt from Stokes' unpublished autobiography, I Belong to the Working Class (Rose Pastor Stokes Papers, Yale University).

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Tillion, Germaine. Ravensbruck. Garden City, NY: Anchor Press, 1975.
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Includes work by 12 Jewish women poets: Anonymous (Sephardic Ballad); Rahel Morpurgo; Malka Heifetz Tussman; Kadia Molodowsky; Rachel Korn; Else Lasker-Schuler; Nelly Sachs; Gertrud Kolman; Rahel; Leah Goldberg; Dahlia Ravikovich.

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Poetry about what it means to be a Holocaust survivor and a feminist. An interview with Klepfisz appeared in off our backs (XIII, no.11, December 1983, pp.10-11), along with a review of Keeper of Accounts by Joan Nestle (p.11).

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Autobiographical novel by the sister of Isaac Bashevis Singer, first published in Warsaw in 1936.

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Twenty essays by contemporary scholars: 11 examine women characters in fiction by women; 9 discuss women in fiction by male authors.

Yezierska, Anzia. Bread Givers: A Struggle Between a Father of the Old World and a Daughter of the New World. With an intro. by Alice Kessler-Harris. New York: Persea Books, 1975.

First published in 1925. Readers may want to look at Anzia Yezierska by Carol Schoen (Twayne, 1982).

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Short stories.

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Beck, Evelyn Torton. Nice Jewish Girls: A Lesbian Anthology. Watertown, MA: Persephone Press, 1982; repr. Trumansburg, NY: Crossing Press, 1984.

Landmark anthology, demonstrating both the continuities and the diversity in Jewish women's experience. Includes "Suggestions for Further Reading," pp.271-277. An interview with Beck appeared in Lilith no.10, Winter 1982/83, pp.10-14.

Big Mama Rag 10, no.7 (July 1982): "Jewish Women on Judaism," pp.2-3, 9-11, 17-18.

Articles and letters in response to BMR's special issues on spirituality (v.10, no.3) and religion (v.10, no.4), which omitted material by Jewish feminists.

Brown, Fern. "As a Jewish Lesbian: Questions of Race and Anti-Racism." Common Lives/Lesbian Lives no.3 (Spring 1982): 42-46.

Bulkin, Elly, Minnie Bruce Pratt, and Barbara Smith. Yours in Struggle: Three Feminist Perspectives on Anti-Semitism and Racism. Brooklyn, NY: Long Haul Press, 1984.

The authors bring much needed clarity to the contentious issues of racism and anti-Semitism. Pratt writes of her coming to political consciousness in a Southern white Christian context. Smith addresses the complex tensions between black and Jewish women in the women's movement. Bulkin, in the longest piece, tries to break through the webs of anger and bias to come to a realistic depiction of Jewish oppression, Jewish privilege, Jewish survival in the world. In doing this, she discusses the complexity of Jewish lives in the U.S., then goes further to dissect Jewish/Arab relations in the Middle East. The overall message of the volume is that activists of different persuasions must veer away from the politics of accusation, and strive for a politics of coalition.

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Freespirit, Judy. "Flashbacks from the Jewish Feminist Conference, June 1982." Common Lives/Lesbian Lives no.7 (Spring 1983): 86-90.

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Kaye, Melanie. "Anti-Semitism, Homophobia, and the Good White Knight." off our backs 12, no.5 (May 1982): p.30.

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Luger, Deb. "Anti-Semitism Is Alive & Thriving in Denver, Colorado & Throughout the US." Big Mama Rag 12, no.2 (February 1984): 10-11, 15, 19.

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Issues 2 and 3 (1982) of this new journal included material on Jewish feminism.

Addresses

Alyson Publications, P.O. Box 2783, Boston, MA 02208.

Atlantis, Mount Saint Vincent University, 166 Bedford Highway, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3M 2J6, Canada.

Biblio Press, P.O. Box 22, Fresh Meadows, NY 11365-0022.

Big Mama Rag, 1724 Gaylord St., Denver, CO 80206.

Black Oyster Press, 821 Hampshire St., San Francisco, CA 94110.

Broomstick, 3543 18th St., San Francisco, CA 94110.

Common Lives/Lesbian Lives, P.O. Box 1553, Iowa City, IA 52244.

Conditions, P.O. Box 56A, Van Brunt Station, Brooklyn, NY 11215.

Daughters, Inc. is no longer publishing.

Diaspora Distribution, P.O. Box 19224, Oakland, CA 94619.

Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies, Women Studies Program, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309.

Genesis 2: An Independent Voice for Jewish Renewal, 233 Bay State Rd., Boston, MA 02215.

Heyeck Press, 25 Patrol Ct., Woodside, CA 94062.

Institute for Research in History, 432 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016.

Lilith: The Jewish Women's Magazine, 250 West 57th St., New York, NY 10019.

Long Haul Press, Box 592, Van Brunt Station, Brooklyn, NY 11215.

Motheroot Publications, 214 Dewey St., Pittsburgh, PA 15218.

New Glide Publications, c/o Volcano Press, 330 Ellis St., Rm.518, San Francisco, CA 94102.

off our backs, 1841 Columbia Rd., N.W., Rm.212, Washington, D.C. 20009.

Persephone Press is no longer publishing.

Plexus, West Coast Women's Press, 545 Athol Ave., Oakland, CA 94606.

Radical Rose Recordings, P.O. Box 8122, Minneapolis, MN 55408.

Shmate: A Journal of Progressive Jewish Thought, Box 4228, Berkeley, CA 94704.

Sinister Wisdom, P.O. Box 1023, Rockland, ME 04841.

Sojourner, 143 Albany St., Cambridge, MA 02139.

Womanews, P.O. Box 220, Village Station, New York, NY 10014.

Woman's Institute for Continuing Jewish Education, 4079 54th St., San Diego, CA 92105.

Compiled by Catherine Loeb
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